

REMARKS

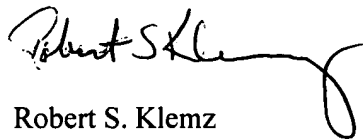
The claims have been amended to comply with U.S. practice. Original claims 1-27 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 28-54. The new claims eliminate multiple dependent claims, indefinite language, and include antecedent basis for all claimed elements. No substantively new matter has been added.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that the amended claims conform to standard U.S. practice, and are now in condition for allowance. Applicant requests consideration and early allowance of the amended claims.

Date: May 15, 2006

Vesuvius USA Corporation  
250 Park West Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275  
Tel: 412-429-1800 x6921  
Fax: 412-276-7252

Respectfully submitted,



Robert S. Klemz  
Reg. No. 46,305